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*#19/E*  
*3/29/01*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

Sugiyama

CPA of Appln. No.: 09/098,730

(Parent filed: June 18, 1998)

CPA Filed: March 26, 2001

Title: MULTILAYERED AIR-FUEL RATIO SENSOR

Confirmation No.:

Group Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Tung

March 26, 2001

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MAR 28 2001  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the Continuation Application filed herewith, please amend the Application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 with the following.

1. (Four times amended) A multilayered air-fuel ratio sensor having a plurality of stacked layers comprising:  
a plurality of substrate layers comprising at least one solid electrolytic substrate layer and at least one insulating substrate layer; and  
a boundary layer interposed between said solid electrolytic substrate layer and said insulating substrate layer;  
wherein said boundary layer has an average sintered particle size larger than that of said solid electrolytic substrate layer and different from that of said insulating substrate layer.

2. (Thrice amended) The multilayered air-fuel ratio sensor according to claim 1, wherein said boundary layer has a porosity larger than that of said substrate layers.